



CITY OF LONG BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802 PHONE (562) 570-6475 FAX (562) 570-6583

GERALD R. MILLER
CITY MANAGER

May 2006

Dear Friend:

We want to inform you of the Long Beach Challenge, and how we are working to protect and educate the youth and families in our City.

Under the current City budget, only 15 new police officers were hired, even though the Long Beach Police Chief says the City needs between 100 to 300 more to make the City safer from crime. Long Beach has a number of terrorist targets, including the Port of Long Beach, the airport, and other critical facilities. Additional funding is needed to help the Long Beach police and fire departments keep up with increasing demands for effective neighborhood protection, rapid response in a terrorist attack or natural disaster, monitoring sexual predators, and anti-gang and drug programs.

As part of our longstanding commitment to keeping our children and youth on the right track, we have been focused on prevention programs that keep our kids out of trouble. Unfortunately, budget cuts to our libraries make this task harder. Recently, our library hours have been cut 20-30% from 7 to 5 days per week at Main and from 6 and 5 days to 4 days at neighborhood libraries. Additionally, the book/materials budget has been cut by 35%. Because of these reductions, Long Beach's libraries now rank near the bottom of the state for hours of operation. We need to ensure that these library programs are available as alternatives for our young people.

Your help is essential. We are considering a potential November 2006 Long Beach Public Safety and Youth Crime Prevention Measure to address needs in our city. Over the next several months, we will be soliciting more feedback from residents to ensure a Plan that addresses community priorities.

Please help us by providing your input on the enclosed community survey form and returning it today.

As we proceed with our planning, we will continue to keep you informed. We have enclosed a "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet for your information. Please don't hesitate to contact (562) 570-6475 with any further questions or visit our website www.longbeach.gov and follow the link to fill out our Community Feedback survey.

Sincerely,

Anthony Batts
Chief of Police

David Ellis
Fire Chief

Eleanore Schmidt
Director of Library Services



The Long Beach Challenge
Protecting our Community and Educating our Youth

**Frequently Asked Questions and Answers
About Public Safety and Library Needs**

Q: *What are the demands on Long Beach's police department?*

A: In the current fiscal year's budget the City only hired 15 new police officers, even though the Long Beach Police Chief says the City needs between 100 to 300 more to make the City safer from crime. We need additional funding to help the Long Beach police to keep up with the City's growing population and the increasing demand for effective police protection.

Q: *What challenges do our Long Beach Public Libraries face?*

A: Over the past three years, local library hours were cut 20% to 30% from 5 and 6 days to 4 days of service per week at neighborhood libraries and from 7 days to 5 days per week at the Main library, and 35% of the book/materials budget was cut. Unfortunately, because of these cuts, Long Beach's libraries rank near the bottom of the state and the Los Angeles region when it comes to hours of operation.

Q: *How do these issues affect Long Beach children and youth?*

A: These issues are connected, and need to be addressed together to make a real difference in the lives of our young people. Our City needs more police on the street to keep our neighborhoods safe, to provide safe passage to and from school and to prevent the gang-related shootings and violence that plague many local high schools. We need additional funding to monitor registered sex offenders, protect parks and school grounds, and investigate and prevent home robberies.

A strong library system provides more than books. Libraries are not only learning environments, but keep kids off the street and out of trouble. Eighty-five percent (85%) of juveniles in jail cannot read above the third grade level. More than five thousand children and teens use the City's libraries each week for reading and literacy programs, teen programs and school-group visits. We need to ensure that these programs are available to keep kids on the right track, before they become delinquent and turn to crime.



The Long Beach Challenge

Protecting our Community and Educating our Youth

Q: What about 9-1-1/fire needs?

A: Long Beach has a number of potential terrorist targets, including the Port of Long Beach, the airport, and other critical facilities. Additional firefighters are needed to adequately deal with terrorist threats close to potential targets. We also need to ensure that we have the firefighters we need to handle natural disasters in our City and improve emergency/9-1-1 response times.

Q: What is the Long Beach Challenge?

A: In the last three years, the City of Long Beach has eliminated over \$92 million from the budget and will need to make another \$10 million in reductions in Fiscal Year 07 through continued optimization of City programs and services. In addition, the State has taken \$200 million from Long Beach over the past 16 years even though our population and demand for services continue to increase. Unfortunately, no adequate funding options are available at this time to address some of our most urgent needs. We need to develop real solutions to make sure the quality of life in our community is what residents deserve and expect.

Q: How is the City planning on meeting the challenge?

A: We want to get more input from the community on priorities and will develop a plan to address these needs in the most fiscally responsible way possible. A potential finance measure, similar to those in cities throughout the state to ask for voter approval of funding for vital city services, may be considered at the end of this process.

Q: How can I get more information about meeting the challenge?

A: Please visit our website at www.longbeach.gov and follow the link provided to fill out our Community Feedback Form and let us know your priorities. If you have questions, please contact City of Long Beach, Community Outreach at (562) 570-6475 or email us at outreach@longbeach.gov.

Alternate Language or Format Request
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The Long Beach Challenge

Community Feedback Survey

Please take a moment to let us know what you think the funding priorities should be among the following city services. We want to hear from you as we develop our plans for our community.

Please assign a priority to the items below: 1 = low priority, 2 = medium priority, 3 = high priority

- _____ Expanding neighborhood based policing programs
- _____ Tracking and monitoring sex offenders
- _____ Expanding anti-gang programs
- _____ Hiring additional police officers and firefighters
- _____ Ensuring Main library and all neighborhood libraries are open 6 days a week
- _____ Continuing library reading, literacy and teen programs
- _____ Restoring the ability of our libraries to purchase new books and resources
- _____ Providing computers and access to technology
- _____ Improving ability of the City to respond to a terrorist attack
- _____ Improving 9-1-1/emergency response times
- _____ Improving readiness and response to natural disasters

Other Priorities, Questions or Comments:

☐ Please keep me informed.

Name: _____ ZIP Code (Required): _____

Address: _____ City/State/Zip: _____

Phone (day): _____ Email: _____

Phone (eve): _____

Please return this survey to:
City of Long Beach
Attn: Community Outreach
333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802
Fax: (562) 570-6583
Phone: (562) 570-6475
Website: www.longbeach.gov
Email: outreach@longbeach.gov

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The Long Beach Challenge

Protecting our Community and Educating our Youth

City of Long Beach
Community Outreach
333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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Introduction

- o We are here today to talk to you about the Long Beach Challenge, and how the City is working to protect and educate youth and families of Long Beach
- o The City is growing and current funding cannot keep up with demands for some of our vital services like police, fire and libraries
- o We need to develop real solutions to make sure the quality of life in our community is what residents need
- o We need your input

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Increasing Demands for Services

- o Over the past 25 years, our population has grown almost 36% increasing demand on essential services
- o The City needs between 100 to 300 more police officers to keep pace with population growth
- o The Fire Department has six fewer Firefighters on duty than 25 years ago, as threats have increased
- o The Long Beach Public Library has reduced the number of days the Main and neighborhood branches are open by 20% - 30%.

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Protecting Our Children

- o We need additional funding to monitor registered sex offenders, especially near parks and school grounds
- o Long Beach needs more police on the street to investigate and prevent gang-related violence at local high schools
- o We need to make neighborhoods safer for our children by cracking down on speeding and other traffic violations

"Our Children need to be able to play in their neighborhoods without fear."

(Police Chief Anthony Batts)

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Priority Needs—Public Safety

- o Increasing the number of police officers to focus on children, sexual-offenders, and gang violence
- o Adding additional firefighters to match population growth, thereby ensuring rapid response to medical emergencies
- o Improving the ability of police and fire departments to respond quickly to neighborhood safety needs, natural disasters and possible terrorist attacks

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Challenges Facing Police Services

- o The Long Beach Police Chief says the City needs between 100 to 300 more officers to make the City safer
- o Long Beach has numerous terrorist targets, including the Port of Long Beach, the airport and other critical facilities, which need additional protection
- o The Long Beach Police Department needs to keep up with the City's growing population and the increasing demand for effective police protection

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Youth Challenges

- o Library programs keep children on the right track before they turn to crime
- o Long Beach City libraries provide more than books - they keep kids off the street and out of trouble
- o Eighty-five percent (85%) of juveniles in jail cannot read above a third-grade level
- o Due to budget cuts, Long Beach libraries rank near the bottom of the State and the Los Angeles Region when it comes to hours of operation

"When I hear the library is being cut back, it hurts me. My outlet when I saw gangs and violence around me was to go to the library, so don't close that outlet on other youngsters that are growing up in my neighborhood."

(CSULB Student, D. Molina, 19 years old)

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Challenges for Our Public Libraries

- o Recently, our Long Beach Library reduced the days the Main and neighborhood libraries are open from 7 to 5 days per week at Main and from 6 and 5 days to 4 days at neighborhood libraries
- o Our Library's book/materials budget has been reduced by 35%, limiting the number of books, reference materials, periodicals, and other resources that we can purchase

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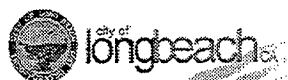
Fire and Emergency/9-1-1 Needs

- o We need to improve community preparedness (CERT) in case of natural disaster
- o We need to improve emergency response times by adding a fifth Fire Truck Company
- o We need to deploy Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) capabilities Citywide
- o Additional firefighters are needed to adequately plan for and respond to the terrorist threats of the post 9/11 world

"We need to ensure that we have an adequate number of Firefighters, to respond effectively, when a natural disaster strikes our City."

(Fire Chief Dave Ellis)

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Local Funding Challenges

- o In the last three years, the City of Long Beach has eliminated a \$92 million structural budget deficit with an additional reduction of \$10 million planned in Fiscal Year 07
- o Over the past sixteen years, the State has taken \$200 million from Long Beach
- o The state and federal governments continue to take local resources that could otherwise be spent on essential city services

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How can we meet the challenge?

- o The City is considering a potential Public Safety, Libraries and Youth Protection Finance Measure to meet the needs of our residents and ensure the quality of life in our community
- o For instance, a ½ cent sales tax could generate up to \$23.5 million a year for public safety
- o A Local Funding Measure is the only adequate funding option available at this time

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Fiscal Accountability

- o Any potential Measure will include strict fiscal accountability procedures
- o Annual independent audits with published results will guarantee that all funds are spent as promised
- o All funds will be placed in a trust fund and no money from the Measure will be spent on bureaucracy or administrators' salaries

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When will an election be held?

- o We are still in the planning process and seeking additional community input
- o We are considering a Local Funding Measure for the November 2006 ballot
- o We will only move forward with an election after City officials develop a fiscally responsible plan that adequately meets community needs

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How can you get involved?

- ✓ Fill out the feedback form today and tell us what you think our City's priorities should be.
- ✓ Agree to help with a community outreach.
- ✓ Do you belong to other organizations that should provide input? Let us know!
- ✓ Stay informed and help in the future.

For further information, contact: (562) 570-6475 or outreach@longbeach.gov

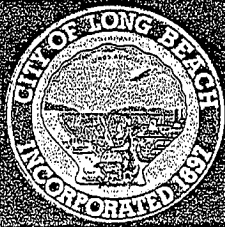
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The Long Beach Challenge

Supplemental Information

City of Long Beach
Community Outreach
333 West Ocean Blvd., 13th Floor
Long Beach, CA 90802

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Funding Options

1/2 Cent Sales Tax: \$23,500,000

- Police
 - ✓ 100 additional Police Patrol Officers and 15 Sergeants/Lieutenants to improve neighborhood safety
 - ✓ 28 additional Detectives to solve crimes
 - ✓ Associated equipment and support staff
- Fire
 - ✓ 12 additional Firefighters and truck to improve emergency response
 - ✓ Additional staffing for natural disaster and terrorism preparedness
- Library
 - ✓ Increased hours of operation: 1 additional day/week (5 days/week at branches and 6 days/week at Main)
 - ✓ Partial restoration for library materials budget and expanded technology

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Funding Options

Parcel Tax: \$30,000,000

- **Police**
 - ✓ 100 additional Police Patrol Officers and 15 Sergeants/Lieutenants to improve neighborhood safety
 - ✓ 28 additional Detectives to solve crimes
 - ✓ Associated equipment and support staff
- **Fire**
 - ✓ 21 additional Firefighters and truck to improve emergency response
 - ✓ 6 additional Firefighters/Paramedics and ambulance to enhance emergency medical response to the community
 - ✓ Additional Firefighters and staff for natural disaster and terrorism preparedness
 - ✓ Infrastructure improvements and enhance building safety inspections
- **Library**
 - ✓ Increased hours of operation: 2 additional days/week (6 days/week at branches and 7 days/week at Main)
 - ✓ Added Family Learning Center hours and homework help/tutoring
 - ✓ Restored funding for library materials and expanded technology
 - ✓ Expanded youth and teen programming, and dedicated staffing at all sites
 - ✓ Increased joint education activities with local schools
 - ✓ Infrastructure repair

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Parcel Tax		
Possible Parcel Tax Structure		
Property Type	Monthly Cost Per Unit/Parcel	Annual Cost Per Unit/Parcel
<i>Residential</i>		
Single Family and Condos	\$8.33	\$100
Multi-Family (2-4 units)	\$6.25	\$75
Multi-Family (5+ units)	\$5.42	\$65
<i>Commercial and Industrial</i>		
0 – 5,000 square feet	\$125.00	\$1,500
5,001 – 15,000 square feet	\$208.33	\$2,500
15,001 and greater square feet	\$291.67	\$3,500
Businesses w/multiple contiguous parcels	\$416.67	\$5,000
Total		\$30,000,000



STATE FUNDING FOR LOCAL STREETS

JULY 7, 2006

Background

- For each gallon of gas in Long Beach, you pay the following taxes: 18.3 cent federal excise tax, 18 cent state excise tax, and 8.25 percent sales tax (varies by jurisdiction).
- Under the Proposition 42 initiative passed in 2002, cities receive 20 percent of the sales tax on gasoline to be used for local transportation projects.
- Proposition 42 funds are one of the most flexible transportation funding source the City receives from the State, and can be used for street improvements, repairing/reconstructing unsafe roads, upgrading interchanges and highways, bridge work, transit improvements or fixing potholes.
- The City has traditionally used this funding for local street repair.
- Long Beach has lost millions of dollars through State borrowing and suspension of the funds to solve the State's budget deficit.
- The constant suspension of Proposition 42 funds has left the City without a viable and sustainable local street maintenance and rehabilitation program.
- Fiscal Year 2006 was the first year that the State Legislature fully funded Proposition 42 and did not divert any of the funds to the State General Fund.

History of State Prop 42 Funding

- In FY 02 and FY 03, cities and counties received some funding for street and road maintenance (called AB 2928 funding), while State projects went unfunded due to budget deficits.
- The trade-off for receiving funding in these two years was that cities and counties would not be entitled to any Prop 42 funding in Fiscal Years 2007 and 2008.
- In FY 04 and FY 05, the State suspended payments to cities and counties completely, creating a debt that they would eventually have to repay.
- As mentioned previously, FY 06 was the first year that the State fully funded Prop 42, and the City began receiving funding again.
- For the recently passed FY 07 Budget, local governments pressed for additional Prop 42 payments for FY 07 and FY 08, as cities are currently not entitled to Prop 42 funds for those years.
- In response, the Governor and State Legislature used higher than expected revenues to partially repay local governments for some of the funds diverted in FY 04 and FY 05.
- As a result, local governments are expected to receive \$424 million, of which 50 percent (or \$212 million) will be allocated to cities.
- Preliminary estimates suggest that Long Beach could receive well over \$3 million (compared to last year's allocation of \$2.1 million); however, the actual amount Long Beach will receive will not be known until the State releases the allocations.

Specifically, the City of Long Beach was to receive the following amounts over the past few years:

Fiscal Year	Expected	Actual
FY 03	\$1,226,960	\$1,226,960
FY 04	\$1,549,056	\$0
FY 05	\$1,472,358	\$0
FY 06	\$2,054,268	\$2,054,268
FY 07	\$0	Over \$3 million*
FY 08	\$0	
*Estimated as actual amounts have not yet been released Source: League of California Cities		

- The State's action to fully fund the Proposition 42 account in Fiscal Year 2007 and repay past debts to cities is commendable, as it will enable us to improve some of our City's roadways and infrastructure.
- However, these funds must be perpetually available to systematically pay for both deferred and future maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

Prop 1A Protection Measure

- Earlier this year as part of the Infrastructure Bond package, the State Legislature voted to place a measure to protect Prop 42 revenues (SCA 7) on the November ballot, an issue the City has been in support of for many years.
 - This ballot measure would allow the State to borrow from the Transportation Investment Fund under conditions very similar to the original Prop 1A, which protected local government revenues from State raids.
 - Specifically, the State could borrow from the fund to balance a General Fund deficit if the state declares an emergency.
 - However, the State would be restricted borrowing only twice in a 10 year period and must repay within 3 years of borrowing.
- The City Council has requested the City Attorney to prepare a resolution in full support of the entire infrastructure bond package, as well as the Prop 42 fix.

Local Street Funding in the Transportation Bond

- The Transportation Bond that will appear on the November 2006 ballot includes \$2 billion for cities and counties (\$1 billion for each) to use for a broad range of uses related to local streets, including improvement, repair, maintenance, matching dollars, drainage projects, and many other uses.
 - Each city will receive a minimum of \$400,000, and the rest will be distributed based on population.
 - Long Beach is expected to receive \$15.6 million based on this formula.
 - This funding is critically needed and has been one of the City Council's main priorities.